

**EARTH SCIENCE 1401  
INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY**

**Instructor:** Professor Hsiang-te Kung.  
**Office:** 226 Johnson Hall

**Office Hours:** by appointment  
**E-mail:** [hkung@memphis.edu](mailto:hkung@memphis.edu)

**Text:** James M. Rubenstein (2005) *An Introduction to Human Geography: The Cultural Landscape* (8<sup>th</sup> edition). Pearson Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ.

**Video Series:** *Human Geography: People, Places, and Change*, BBC (1996)

- **GEOGRAPHY 1401 satisfies the GENERAL EDUCATION requirements for Social/Behavioral Science.**

**Course Description:** Geographical aspects of human behavior; distributional patterns and interactions of such cultural characteristics as language, religion, politics, and economics.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To understand human/cultural environment from geographical perspective
2. To introduce some fundamental geographic theories and methodologies on real world problems
3. To explore a variety of topics and themes developed in human geography
4. To explain pattern and process of geographic phenomena in society
5. To get familiar with a fundamental elements and concepts in human geography

**Course Format:** Lecture, video materials and class discussion

**Course Outline:**

**Note:** Your instructor reserves the right to alter the course calendar as circumstances may dictate. All changes will be announced in class. Students not attending class are responsible for obtaining this information.

Chapter 1. Thinking Geographically

- Why do geographers address where things are?
- Why is each point on earth unique?
- Why are different places similar?

Chapter 2. Population

- Where is the world's population distributed?
- Where has the world's population increased?
- Why is population increasing at different rates in different countries?
- Why might the world face an overpopulation problem?

Video: Vol. 6: Population transition in Italy

Chapter 3. Migration

- Why do people migrate?
- Where are migrants distributed?
- Why do migrants face obstacles?
- Why do people migrate within a country?

Video: Vol. 8: A migrant's heart

Chapter 4. Folk and Popular Culture

- Where do folk and popular cultures originate and diffuse?
- Why is folk culture clustered?
- Why is popular culture widely distributed?
- Why does globalization of popular culture cause problems?

Chapter 5. Language

- Where are English-language speakers distributed?

Why is English related to other languages?  
Where are other language families distributed?  
Why do people preserve local languages?

Video: Vol. 2: Reflections on a global screen

#### Chapter 7. Ethnicity

Where are ethnicities distributed?  
Why have ethnicities been transformed into nationalities?  
Why do ethnicities clash?  
What is ethnic cleansing?

Video: Vol. 4: Global tourism

#### Chapter 8. Political Geography

Where are states located?  
Why do boundaries cause problems?  
Why do states cooperate with each other?  
Why has terrorism increased?

#### Chapter 9. Development

Why does development among countries?  
Where are more and less developed countries distributed?  
Where does level of development vary by gender?  
Why do less developed countries face obstacles to development?

Video: Vol. 5: Alaska: the last frontier?

#### Chapter 10. Agriculture

Where did agriculture originate?  
Where are agricultural regions in less developed countries?  
Where are agricultural regions in more developed countries?  
Why do farmers face economic difficulties?

Video: Vol. 7: Water is for fighting over

#### Chapter 11. Industry

Where did industry originate?  
Where is industry distributed?  
Why do industries have different distributions?  
Why do industries have face problems?

Video: Vol. 3: Global firms in the industrializing east

#### Chapter 12. Services

Where did services originate?  
Why are consumer services distributed in a regular pattern?  
Why do business services locate in large settlements?  
Why do services cluster downtown?

Video: Vol. 10: The world of the dragon

#### Chapter 13. Urban Patterns

Where have urban areas grown?  
Where are people distributed within urban areas?  
Why do inner cities have distinctive problems?  
Why do suburbs have distinctive problems?

Video: Vol. 9: Berlin: changing center of a changing Europe

## Chapter 14. Resource Issues

- Why are resources being depleted?
- Why are resources being polluted?
- Where are resources renewable?
- Why can resources be conserved?

Final (Comprehensive Exam)

**Cheating, plagiarism, and classroom misconduct will be handled in accordance with University procedures described in *The U of M Student Handbook*.**

**Course Evaluation:** Your grade will be based upon **class participation, midterm exam(s), and a final exam.**

**Assignment:** Be a movie critic as well as a geographer. Watch a movie and make a review or comment from a geographer's perspective. Do not just focus on the story, but keep an eye on the backgrounds (human and physical environments), lifestyle, transportation, economic activity, cultural aspect, political backgrounds and so forth. Use your creativity and write a one-page typed review on the movie you watched. Try to add geographical perspectives that the class material has covered in your review.

**Attendance is mandatory**, according to Department Policy. Excessive absence may result in lowering of the course grade. Normally no credit will be given for a course if absences exceed 15 percent of class time.

### **Class Expectations:**

- Students are expected to come to class **on time** and attend all classes.
- Students are expected to:
  - read all assigned readings prior to class,
  - be considerate of fellow classmates and the instructor, which includes:
    - turning off all pagers and cellular phones before class begins,
    - not talking when the instructor or classmates are conducting classroom presentations, and
    - refraining from gathering up personal items to leave before class sessions are dismissed by the instructor
  - participate in classroom discussions when appropriate.
- Students are expected to read text and other material as assigned; however, if there is a discrepancy between information in assigned readings and lectures, the information presented in lecture takes precedence for exam purposes. Students are responsible for all information presented in class whether they are present or not. It is the responsibility of each student to find out what information was presented.